

strengthen national health and social systems by integrating HIV/AIDS intervention into programs for primary health care, mother and child health, sexual and reproductive health, tuberculosis, nutrition, and education. Not only will it be more cost-efficient to work with existing systems, but it will also increase access for people who otherwise might not seek out counseling, testing, or treatment. As we look ahead to the next 5, 10 years and beyond, strong national health systems will be crucial for sustainability.

The 25-year anniversary of this terrible disease is an opportunity to take stock of where we have been and to renew our commitment to overcoming the challenges that lie ahead in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL HOUSING CONFERENCE

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the National Housing Conference, NHC, an organization of over 900 members dedicated to forwarding the cause of affordable housing and community development. For the past 75 years, the National Housing Conference has been an important contributor to the national debate on housing policy. Over the years, NHC has worked to achieve the goal set forth in the landmark Housing Act of 1949: "a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family."

Organized in New York City in 1931 by the efforts of reformer and social worker Mary Simkhovitch, NHC has the distinction of being the first non-partisan, independent coalition of national housing leaders from both public and private sectors. This pioneering advocacy group included bankers, builders, civic leaders, realtors, organized labor, architects, and residents. Early on, NHC was instrumental in the efforts to raise public awareness in New York City about the plight of hundreds of thousands of its people and the consequences slums had on the general welfare.

In 1945, NHC moved its headquarters to Washington, DC, and took on a tremendous challenge: get rid of the slums, and eliminate substandard housing. Through the 1940s NHC forged partnerships and mobilized grassroots forces around the country in an effort to pass Federal legislation to meet this challenge. Finally, NHC's efforts were rewarded with the passage of the landmark Housing Act of 1949, the most sweeping, ambitious housing legislation the Nation had ever had. The act called for "a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family."

In the 1960s, NHC was again instrumental in the passage of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965, which resulted in the creation of a Cabinet-level department devoted to housing.

Throughout the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s NHC was a constant presence in the na-

tional debate on housing policy, and continued to advocate on behalf of better housing opportunities for all Americans.

NHC continues to be a force in shaping this Nation's housing policy. Today, as NHC celebrates this milestone, it has rededicated itself to a central mission: fulfilling the dream of the 1949 Housing Act—"a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family." I commend the National Housing Conference for its past efforts and honor the organization on this very special anniversary.

COAST GUARD CUTTER "ACACIA"

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today at a 10 a.m. the U.S. Coast Guard will decommission the Cutter *Acacia* in a ceremony in Charlevoix, MI.

The *Acacia*'s keel was laid in 1942 in Duluth MN, and was commissioned on September 1, 1944. The cutter is named after the original *Acacia*, a U.S. Light-house Service vessel sunk off the coast of British West Indies by a German U-boat on March 17, 1942. The *Acacia* is the last of the Coast Guard's 180-foot World War II era buoy tenders still in service and has called Charlevoix, MI, home since 1990.

The *Acacia* has served as a buoy tender on the Great Lakes for 62 years and its area of responsibility extends from Chicago at the south end of Lake Michigan to Alpena on Lake Huron. The cutter's primary mission is maintaining aids to navigation but has also performed search and rescue missions, as well as providing icebreaking assistance during the winter. The *Acacia*, also known as "The Big A" or "Ace of the Great Lakes" has performed an unheralded but vital mission in the Great Lakes for more than six decades.

I commend the *Acacia* crew both past and present for their tireless service to maintain the Great Lakes navigational aids. Each fall the *Acacia* and its crew begin a race against the Lakes brutal winter weather when they set out to remove buoys in Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. These buoys can weigh over 18 tons and are covered in ice. Pulling buoys out of the frigid and unpredictable Great Lakes in October, November and December is back breaking work in rough seas and sub zero weather. However, it is crucial to keep these waterways open for commercial shipping as long as possible before the ice closes the shipping lanes and grinds any buoys left behind into scrap metal.

Mr. President, the *Acacia* and her crew have served the Great Lakes faithfully since the 1940s and we will miss her fondly.

PROCLAMATION

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I request unanimous consent that my proclamation honoring the Bicentennial of the Steubenville Herald-Star newspaper be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE STEUBENVILLE HERALD-STAR NEWSPAPER

Whereas; The Herald-Star Newspaper was founded on June 7, 1806 in Steubenville by William Lowry and John Miller, who named it the Western Herald, and

Whereas; It is the oldest newspaper in Jefferson County and is also one of the oldest daily circulated newspapers in Ohio, and

Whereas; John Miller left the paper to fight the British during the War of 1812, where he received lands in Missouri, and earned the rank of Colonel—eventually becoming the territorial governor, and

Whereas; President Woodrow Wilson's grandfather, James Wilson bought the Western Herald in 1815. The newspaper stayed in the Wilson family for nearly three decades, and

Whereas; With the establishment of a telegraph between Steubenville and Pittsburgh, the Western Herald became one of the most widely read and influential papers in the area, and

Whereas; The Western Herald once employed journalists who went on to become powerful players in the newspaper industry, like R.B. Allison, who left Steubenville to purchase the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and

Whereas; The Western Herald and the Steubenville Star merged in 1897 to become the Herald-Star, and

Whereas; The Herald Star is now operated by Ogden Newspapers Inc, and now resides at 401 Herald Square in downtown Steubenville.

Now, therefore, I, Mike DeWine, United States Senator from the Great State of Ohio, would like to commend The Herald-Star for two centuries of commitment to one of this country's founding ideals—the freedom of the press—and congratulate past, present and future employees for their success.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COLLBRAN JOB CORPS

● Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, today I recognize and commend the fantastic work and accomplishments of the students and staff at the Collbran Job Corps located in Collbran, CO.

Last year, the Collbran Job Corps was awarded the outstanding Organization of the Year award by the Colorado Special Olympics Hall of Fame for their outstanding service and dedication to the Special Olympics in Colorado. This recognition was well deserved as Collbran Job Corps has actively participated and supported the Colorado Special Olympics for almost 20 years.

Recently, the students and staff at the Collbran Job Corps Center collaborated to form a robotics team that competed in national competitions against other robotics teams from universities, colleges, and the private sector. In May, Collbran team was awarded 1st place honors in a regional robotics competition in Denver and won an opportunity to compete in the International Robotics Competition in Atlanta against robotics teams from around the globe. The judges at the international competition in Atlanta